

# Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly  
Report



U. S. Department of  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

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## Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended December 10, 1955

During the past 5 years there has been a marked decrease in the incidence of diphtheria as in earlier years. The total of 2,041 cases reported in 1954 was approximately a third less than the 5-year median of 2,960. Indications are that the final number for 1955 will approximate that of 1954. While a small decrease from last year was noted in the incidence during the first half of this year, there is little difference in the total cases reported during the latter part of both years. (See accompanying chart.) For the "disease year," which begins with the first week in July, the totals through the first week in December are 1,099 and 1,155, respectively, for 1954 and 1955.

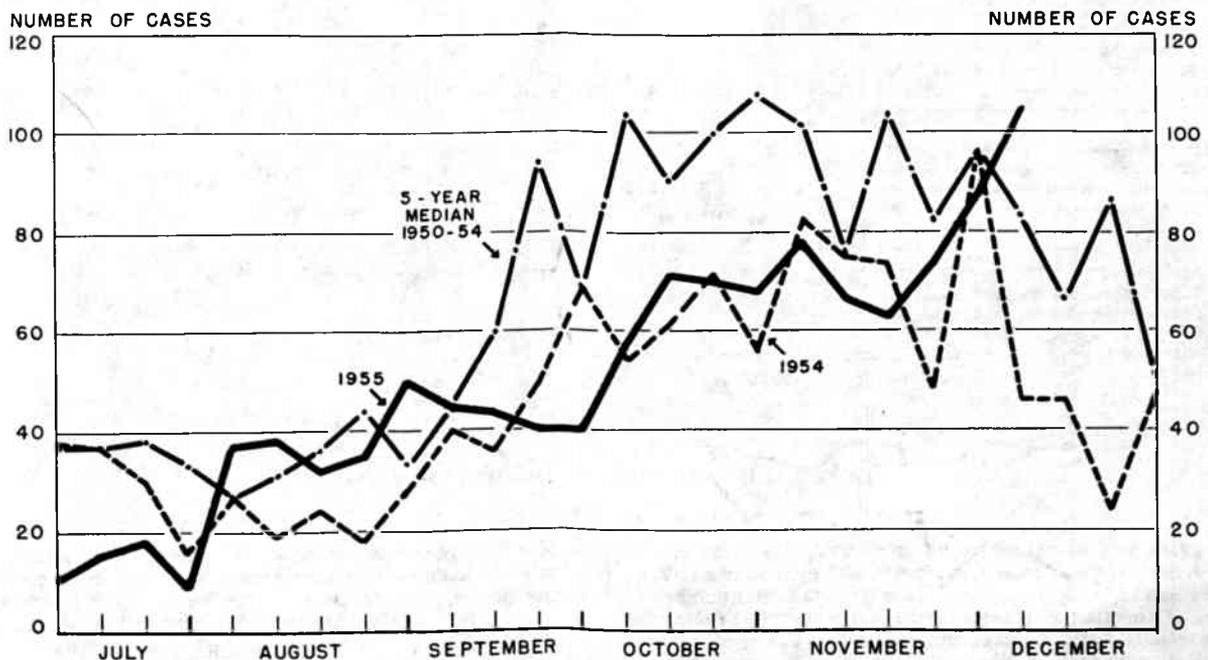
For the current "disease year," about 80 percent of the total cases have occurred in 11 States, 9 of which are southern, along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. They are as follows (last year's figures in parentheses): Virginia, 24 (8); North Carolina, 55 (46); South Carolina, 157 (89); Georgia, 169 (173); Florida, 49 (43); Alabama, 226 (146); Mississippi, 30 (43); Louisiana, 22 (99); Texas, 136 (88); Nebraska, 66 (42); and Minnesota, 28 (11).

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

#### Salmonellosis (Paratyphoid B)

Dr. William Schrack, Pennsylvania Department of Health, has supplied preliminary information on an outbreak of salmonellosis in Lancaster County. The onset of the first case was November 23. An investigation was started on December 5, when 19 cases had been reported. On December 10, the number of reported cases was 150 with 1 secondary infection. A history of use of milk from one dairy has been obtained in cases investigated epidemiologically. They have been scattered in the city of Lancaster and the surrounding area, but have occurred along routes supplied by the dairy. The illness in most instances has been mild, but some patients have had temperatures ranging from 104 to 106 degrees for 4 to 6 days. The organism responsible for the outbreak has been tentatively classified in group B, pending more detailed studies. Intensive epidemiologic studies are in progress which involve investigation of the dairy

### REPORTED CASES OF DIPHTHERIA



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ATLANTA 23, GEORGIA

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plant and farm supplying this dairy. The dairy was voluntarily closed when the investigation indicated that use of milk from this source was responsible for the outbreak.

Salmonellosis

Dr. H. T. Fuerst, New York City Health Department, reports an outbreak of salmonellosis following a family celebration. Sixty-three persons became ill with fever and symptoms of acute gastro-enteritis from 8 to 61 hours after eating a turkey dinner. Stool specimens from 35 of the patients were positive, on culture, for *Salmonella anatum*. The source of the infection has not as yet been determined.

Trypanosomiasis, American (Chagas' disease)

Dr. Henry A. Holle, Texas Department of Health, states that the first case of American trypanosomiasis in this country was reported from Corpus Christi, Texas, early this fall. The State Department of Health was unable to obtain laboratory

specimens for confirmation of this case. A second case was reported from Houston on November 17, 1955. An epidemiological investigation was made upon request. It is of interest that the first 2 human cases found in the United States occurred within 3 months of each other. The second case was in a 6-month-old male infant with obstructive hydrocephalus. The organisms were discovered by a laboratory technologist on a routine microscopic examination of the cerebrospinal fluid obtained by ventricular tap. The etiologic agent, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, has been demonstrated in 4 separate laboratories, including the Texas State Health Department Laboratory. Past history revealed long hospitalizations for Salmonella enteritis and meningitis. There was no history of bug bites of any kind. The infant's home and its immediate vicinity in Brazos County have been carefully surveyed by 2 entomologists, but no *Triatoma* were found. Health Department entomologists and parasitologists have devoted a great deal of attention to the *Triatoma*

Continued on page 6

Table 1. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

DISEASE	49th WEEK			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
	Ended Dec. 10, 1955	Ended Dec. 11, 1954	Median 1950-54	First 49 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
				1955	1954	Median 1950-54	1954-55	1953-54	Median 1949-50 to 1953-54	
Anthrax-----062	1	-	-	27	19	37	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Botulism-----049.1	3	-	---	9	13	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	24	51	---	1,194	1,616	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria-----055	104	46	83	1,864	1,971	2,881	1,155	1,099	1,435	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious,-----082	15	27	20	1,423	1,846	1,071	892	1,290	679	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	476	905	---	30,066	47,695	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria-----110-117	5	4	---	464	696	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Measles-----085	2,830	5,739	4,112	537,183	662,649	500,288	18,784	33,540	23,373	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-----057	60	85	85	3,287	3,908	3,908	716	849	895	Sept. 1
Poliomyelitis-----080	229	337	378	28,817	38,108	35,290	27,754	36,555	33,709	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-----096.2	4	9	---	265	484	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Rabies in man-----094	-	-	-	5	8	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Rocky Mountain spotted fever-----104A	1	4	1	273	288	313	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051	2,897	2,592	2,512	137,805	138,300	101,758	32,544	30,559	25,485	Aug. 1
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	-	-	12	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Trichiniasis-----128	2	8	---	252	243	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Tularemia-----059	5	17	16	486	565	593	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Typhoid fever-----040	30	32	32	1,647	2,199	2,203	1,340	1,793	1,898	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	3	1	---	129	178	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Whooping cough-----056	847	1,585	1,502	60,551	57,565	57,565	8,449	13,804	11,288	Oct. 1
Rabies in animals-----	79	105	112	4,830	6,440	6,843	792	1,044	---	Oct. 1

<sup>1</sup>Reported in New Hampshire.

<sup>2</sup>Frequencies are too small.

<sup>3</sup>Reported in New Mexico.

<sup>4</sup>Ohio and Texas, 1 case each; Alabama and California, 2 cases each.

## SOURCE AND NATURE OF MORBIDITY DATA

These provisional data are based on reports to the Public Health Service from health departments of each State and Territory and of one possession. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding Saturday. Cases of anthrax, botulism, psittacosis, rabies in man, and smallpox are not shown

in table 2, but a footnote to table 1 shows the States making the reports. In addition, when diseases of rare occurrence (cholera, dengue, plague, relapsing fever—louse borne, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted at the end of table 1.

Symbols.—1 dash [ - ]: no cases reported; 3 dashes [ --- ]: data not available.

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**Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 11, 1954 AND DECEMBER 10, 1955**

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	BRUCellosIS (UNDULANT FEVER) (044)		DIPHTHERIA (055)		ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTIOUS (082)		HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS, AND SERUM (092,N998.5 pt.)		MALARIA (110-117)			
									Civilian <sup>1</sup>		Military	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	24	51	104	46	15	27	476	905	4	3	1	1
NEW ENGLAND-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	45	86	-	-	-	-
Maine-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	16	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	30	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	23	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	12	-	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	2	1	3	4	2	6	103	205	-	-	-	-
New York-----	2	1	2	1	2	4	61	153	-	-	-	-
New Jersey-----	-	-	-	3	-	2	7	2	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	35	50	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	5	6	3	3	1	3	61	161	-	1	-	-
Ohio-----	-	-	3	-	1	-	13	14	-	1	-	-
Indiana-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	17	-	-	-	-
Illinois-----	1	1	-	-	-	1	12	114	-	-	-	-
Michigan-----	2	1	-	2	-	2	15	13	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin-----	2	4	-	-	-	-	11	3	-	-	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	11	39	16	11	-	6	38	101	-	-	-	-
Minnesota-----	1	3	1	1	-	-	12	38	-	-	-	-
Iowa-----	6	3	-	-	-	1	7	36	-	-	-	-
Missouri-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	-	-
North Dakota-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	8	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	3	4	-	2	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	-	29	15	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Kansas-----	1	-	-	-	-	4	5	3	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	-	-	19	11	1	4	31	96	1	-	-	-
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Virginia-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	13	42	-	-	-	-
West Virginia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	27	-	-	-	-
North Carolina-----	-	-	4	2	1	3	3	12	1	-	-	-
South Carolina-----	-	-	2	3	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Georgia-----	-	-	4	2	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-
Florida-----	-	-	8	4	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	1	-	30	7	1	2	34	46	-	1	-	1
Kentucky-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	9	-	-	-	1
Tennessee-----	-	-	2	-	1	2	10	16	-	-	-	-
Alabama-----	-	-	25	5	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-
Mississippi-----	1	-	3	1	-	-	4	8	-	1	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	4	1	30	8	2	3	16	41	3	1	-	-
Arkansas-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
Louisiana-----	2	-	4	2	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma-----	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-
Texas-----	1	1	26	5	2	3	12	13	3	1	-	-
MOUNTAIN-----	1	1	1	-	-	1	77	61	-	-	-	-
Montana-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	2	-	-	-	-
Idaho-----	1	-	-	-	-	1	12	7	-	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	10	-	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-
Arizona-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	29	-	-	-	-
Utah-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	-	3	2	2	8	1	71	108	-	-	1	-
Washington-----	-	1	1	-	-	-	16	12	-	-	-	-
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	25	-	-	-	-
California-----	-	2	1	2	8	1	50	71	-	-	1	-
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup>Includes cases not specified as civilian or military.

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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 11, 1954 AND DECEMBER 10, 1955—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

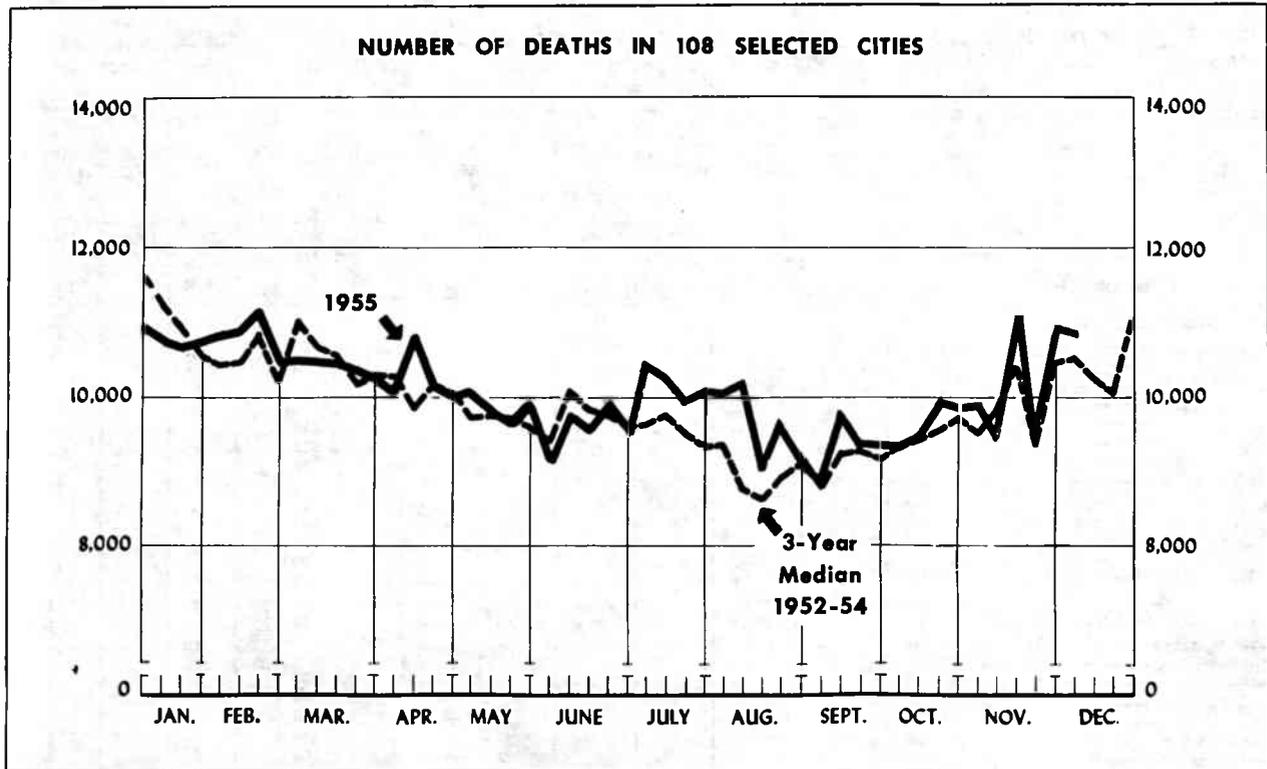
AREA	MEASLES (085)		MENINGO- COCCAL INFECTIONS (057)		POLIOMYELITIS (080)						ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER (104A)	
					Total <sup>2</sup>		Paralytic (080.0,080.1)		Nonparalytic (080.2)			
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	2,830	5,739	60	85	229	337	119	139	60	90	1	4
NEW ENGLAND-----	50	1,660	5	2	26	17	17	5	6	10	-	-
Maine-----	1	90	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	33	69	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	10	1,183	2	1	20	11	16	4	3	6	-	-
Rhode Island-----	2	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	4	278	-	1	4	4	1	1	3	2	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	395	1,343	6	16	20	67	7	20	5	11	-	-
New York-----	170	601	5	4	12	33	6	11	3	5	-	-
New Jersey-----	32	344	-	2	3	18	1	9	2	6	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	193	398	1	10	5	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	617	1,020	17	14	27	91	12	42	5	15	-	-
Ohio-----	83	79	-	3	3	17	-	7	-	2	-	-
Indiana-----	24	35	9	3	6	11	3	-	1	1	-	-
Illinois-----	242	298	2	3	5	19	2	14	-	2	-	-
Michigan-----	213	539	6	5	3	36	2	19	1	9	-	-
Wisconsin-----	55	69	-	-	10	8	5	2	3	1	-	-
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	314	334	3	4	17	24	10	12	2	5	-	-
Minnesota-----	8	188	2	-	4	6	4	5	-	-	-	-
Iowa-----	15	75	-	-	1	4	-	2	1	1	-	-
Missouri-----	19	10	-	3	8	7	6	2	-	1	-	-
North Dakota-----	87	48	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	2	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	11	-	1	-	-	6	-	2	-	3	-	-
Kansas-----	172	8	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	284	238	10	18	17	34	8	15	7	12	1	4
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	3	-	-
Maryland-----	68	11	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	-
District of Columbia-----	6	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Virginia-----	107	48	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
West Virginia-----	29	139	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina-----	30	9	3	6	5	6	3	3	2	2	-	2
South Carolina-----	4	3	2	6	1	5	-	2	-	1	-	-
Georgia-----	30	22	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	2	-	2
Florida-----	10	4	-	2	-	11	-	6	-	3	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	52	104	4	10	13	13	2	4	7	1	-	-
Kentucky-----	26	24	-	1	4	7	1	4	2	1	-	-
Tennessee-----	13	44	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Alabama-----	9	27	1	5	7	2	1	-	4	-	-	-
Mississippi-----	4	9	2	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	383	309	8	10	30	21	13	10	9	7	-	-
Arkansas-----	43	21	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisiana-----	4	3	2	3	6	3	3	2	3	1	-	-
Oklahoma-----	71	9	-	5	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Texas-----	265	276	6	-	22	15	10	6	6	6	-	-
MOUNTAIN-----	301	185	1	3	13	14	8	3	2	2	-	-
Montana-----	91	1	-	-	6	3	3	-	1	1	-	-
Idaho-----	3	5	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Wyoming-----	29	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado-----	67	18	1	3	1	3	1	2	-	1	-	-
New Mexico-----	11	60	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Arizona-----	82	77	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Utah-----	8	19	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada-----	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	434	546	6	8	66	56	42	28	17	27	-	-
Washington-----	71	109	1	1	16	8	11	4	1	3	-	-
Oregon-----	10	65	-	2	11	6	5	3	3	3	-	-
California-----	353	372	5	5	39	42	26	21	13	21	-	-
Alaska-----	38	3	-	-	-	9	-	2	-	1	-	-
Hawaii-----	3	11	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	84	103	-	-	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	-

<sup>2</sup>Includes cases not specified by type, category number (080.3).

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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 11, 1954 AND DECEMBER 10, 1955—Continued  
(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT (050,051)		TRICHI- NIASIS (128)	TULAREMIA (059)		TYPHOID FEVER (040)		TYPHUS FEVER, ENDEMIC (101)	WHOOPING COUGH (056)		RABIES IN ANIMALS	
	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1954
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	2,897	2,592	2	5	17	30	32	3	847	1,585	79	105
NEW ENGLAND-----	103	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	212	-	-
Maine-----	26	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Vermont-----	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Massachusetts-----	52	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	72	-	-
Rhode Island-----	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	54	-	-
Connecticut-----	14	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	65	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	280	120	-	-	-	2	5	-	136	216	11	11
New York-----	208	60	-	-	-	-	3	-	69	78	11	10
New Jersey-----	27	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	56	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	45	40	-	-	-	2	2	-	35	82	-	1
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	303	313	2	1	1	1	3	-	155	306	4	8
Ohio-----	72	77	-	-	1	1	-	-	30	39	3	1
Indiana-----	58	41	1	-	-	-	-	-	20	26	-	4
Illinois-----	64	60	-	-	-	-	2	-	21	49	-	-
Michigan-----	93	63	1	1	-	-	1	-	60	161	-	-
Wisconsin-----	16	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	111	1	3
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	83	101	-	-	2	3	3	-	82	104	13	21
Minnesota-----	25	24	-	-	-	-	1	-	16	50	5	5
Iowa-----	8	13	-	-	1	2	1	-	10	19	3	5
Missouri-----	10	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	33	17	4	11
North Dakota-----	5	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-	-
South Dakota-----	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
Nebraska-----	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kansas-----	29	10	-	-	1	-	1	-	20	1	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	237	351	-	1	5	5	8	-	79	205	15	27
Delaware-----	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
Maryland-----	11	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	19	-	-
District of Columbia-----	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-
Virginia-----	70	139	-	-	3	1	-	-	16	35	3	5
West Virginia-----	25	13	-	-	1	2	1	-	5	76	1	6
North Carolina-----	34	75	-	-	1	-	3	-	18	37	-	4
South Carolina-----	7	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	7	9	6
Georgia-----	60	27	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	6
Florida-----	25	10	-	-	-	2	2	-	11	5	-	-
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	190	72	-	1	5	2	2	-	113	86	14	18
Kentucky-----	100	25	-	-	1	-	-	-	62	40	3	3
Tennessee-----	29	22	-	1	3	2	1	-	22	20	5	4
Alabama-----	21	18	-	-	-	-	1	-	22	25	6	10
Mississippi-----	40	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	1	-	1
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	840	680	-	1	1	11	2	3	155	128	12	18
Arkansas-----	55	51	-	1	-	2	-	-	23	8	1	5
Louisiana-----	38	10	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma-----	23	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	8	-	1
Texas-----	724	605	-	-	-	4	1	3	123	112	11	12
MOUNTAIN-----	629	531	-	1	3	4	5	-	52	67	2	2
Montana-----	6	16	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Idaho-----	22	12	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-
Wyoming-----	83	117	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Colorado-----	61	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-	-
New Mexico-----	106	43	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	2
Arizona-----	305	255	-	-	-	3	3	-	32	41	2	-
Utah-----	46	33	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	10	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	232	337	-	-	-	2	4	-	49	181	8	-
Washington-----	75	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	40	-	-
Oregon-----	43	57	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	16	-	-
California-----	114	174	-	-	-	2	3	-	29	125	8	-
Alaska-----	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	91	-	-



The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 108 major cities of the United States by week for the current year, and, for comparison, the median of the number of deaths reported for the corresponding weeks of the 3 previous calendar years. (The median is the central one of the three values arranged in order of magnitude.) If a report is not received from a city in time to be included in the total for the current week, an estimate is made to maintain comparability for graphic presentation.

The figures reported represent the number of death certificates received in the vital statistics offices during the week indicated, for deaths occurring in that city. Figures compiled in this way, by week of receipt, usually approximate closely the number of deaths occurring during the week. However, differences are to be expected because of variations in the interval between

death and receipt of the certificate.

While week-to-week changes in the total number of deaths reported for all major cities generally represent a change in mortality conditions, this may not be true for variations in weekly figures for each city. For example, in a city with a weekly average of 50 deaths, the number of deaths occurring in a week may be expected to vary by chance alone from 36 to 64 ( $d \pm 2\sqrt{d}$ , where  $d$  represents the average number of deaths per week).

The number of deaths in cities of the same size may also differ because of variations in the age, race, and sex composition of their populations, and because some cities are hospital centers serving the surrounding areas. Changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due in part to population increases or decreases.

Table 3. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

AREA	49th week ended Dec. 10, 1955	48th week ended Dec. 5, 1955	49th week median 1952-54	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 49 WEEKS		
					1955	1954	Percent change
TOTAL: 104 REPORTING CITIES-----	10,543	10,646	10,218	+3.2	478,104	465,596	+2.7
New England----- (13 cities)	495	503	456	+8.6	22,021	21,216	+3.8
Middle Atlantic----- (17 cities)	3,224	3,177	3,143	+2.6	145,423	140,737	+3.3
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,416	2,409	2,320	+4.1	108,190	104,804	+3.2
West North Central----- (8 cities)	727	763	736	-1.2	33,684	34,378	-2.0
South Atlantic----- (8 cities)	756	779	758	-0.3	35,822	35,110	+2.0
East South Central----- (8 cities)	513	522	514	-0.2	22,718	22,382	+1.5
West South Central----- (12 cities)	862	858	803	+7.3	37,517	36,665	+2.3
Mountain----- (8 cities)	240	266	256	-6.2	11,519	11,116	+3.6
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,310	1,369	1,299	+0.8	61,210	59,188	+3.4

# Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 10, 1955

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

CITY	49th week ended Dec. 10, 1955	48th week ended Dec. 3, 1955	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 49 WEEKS		CITY	49th week ended Dec. 10, 1955	48th week ended Dec. 3, 1955	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 49 WEEKS	
			1955	1954				1955	1954
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston-----	---	(218)	---	(10,724)	St. Louis-----	240	272	10,729	11,321
Bridgeport-----	34	43	1,797	1,695	St. Paul-----	65	60	3,124	3,116
Cambridge-----	39	39	1,457	1,318	Wichita-----	28	59	1,883	2,031
Fall River-----	26	26	1,337	1,294	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Hartford-----	55	52	2,210	2,261	Atlanta-----	112	118	5,096	5,059
Lowell-----	24	34	1,245	1,512	Baltimore-----	222	244	10,926	10,464
Lynn-----	26	31	1,094	1,040	Charlotte-----	29	24	1,331	1,447
New Bedford-----	23	23	1,164	1,096	Jacksonville-----	(54)	(59)	(2,358)	(2,358)
New Haven-----	60	38	2,089	2,066	Miami-----	42	51	2,528	2,909
Providence-----	69	65	3,101	2,950	Norfolk-----	---	(32)	---	(1,395)
Somerville-----	11	17	728	702	Richmond-----	66	75	3,136	3,065
Springfield, Mass.-----	56	41	2,063	1,898	Savannah-----	(28)	(32)	(1,383)	(1,353)
Waterbury-----	19	35	1,228	1,149	Tampa-----	62	65	2,661	2,552
Worcester-----	53	59	2,508	2,435	Washington, D. C.-----	188	167	8,435	8,039
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Wilmington, Del.-----	35	35	1,709	1,575
Albany-----	52	44	2,323	2,208	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Allentown-----	(33)	(44)	(1,759)	(1,619)	Birmingham-----	103	81	3,746	3,584
Buffalo-----	168	153	6,630	6,599	Chattanooga-----	46	60	2,149	2,073
Camden-----	40	25	1,763	1,782	Knoxville-----	35	33	1,629	1,669
Elizabeth-----	33	26	1,281	1,366	Louisville-----	116	107	5,036	5,128
Erie-----	42	41	1,681	1,622	Memphis-----	89	120	4,780	4,684
Jersey City-----	66	70	3,357	3,332	Mobile-----	37	30	1,411	1,564
Newark, N. J.-----	103	117	4,869	4,741	Montgomery-----	30	37	1,267	1,288
New York City-----	1,634	1,697	76,257	73,898	Nashville-----	57	54	2,700	2,392
Paterson-----	41	47	1,800	1,826	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Philadelphia-----	522	438	23,181	22,349	Austin-----	25	25	1,248	1,234
Pittsburgh-----	187	218	8,634	7,801	Baton Rouge-----	---	---	---	(1,059)
Reading-----	---	(25)	---	(993)	Corpus Christi-----	20	14	841	849
Rochester, N. Y.-----	121	102	4,626	4,412	Dallas-----	110	108	4,779	4,821
Schenectady-----	21	23	1,085	1,180	El Paso-----	26	27	1,367	1,280
Scranton-----	(35)	(43)	(1,646)	(1,653)	Fort Worth-----	48	70	2,656	2,725
Syracuse-----	81	58	2,714	2,653	Houston-----	154	132	6,123	5,854
Trenton-----	43	63	2,322	2,188	Little Rock-----	50	46	2,166	1,994
Utica-----	36	30	1,509	1,458	New Orleans-----	150	172	7,329	7,222
Yonkers-----	34	25	1,391	1,322	Oklahoma City-----	64	61	2,738	2,844
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio-----	108	91	4,167	3,776
Akron-----	72	70	2,557	2,603	Shreveport-----	45	47	1,930	1,899
Canton-----	34	28	1,332	1,360	Tulsa-----	62	65	2,173	2,167
Chicago-----	796	788	35,436	34,718	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati-----	157	156	7,191	6,761	Albuquerque-----	23	27	1,126	1,307
Cleveland-----	206	193	9,593	9,603	Colorado Springs-----	10	16	627	588
Columbus-----	115	119	5,173	4,879	Denver-----	113	116	5,181	4,921
Dayton-----	78	69	3,163	3,031	Ogden-----	10	15	553	550
Detroit-----	332	328	15,669	14,945	Phoenix-----	30	27	1,180	1,008
Evansville-----	39	24	1,551	1,436	Pueblo-----	11	14	603	641
Flint-----	29	48	1,807	1,809	Salt Lake City-----	39	50	2,035	1,905
Fort Wayne-----	28	37	1,616	1,265	Tucson-----	4	1	214	196
Gary-----	(29)	(30)	(1,345)	(1,264)	PACIFIC				
Grand Rapids-----	35	38	2,017	1,921	Berkeley-----	21	36	890	849
Indianapolis-----	115	154	5,395	5,351	Long Beach-----	53	62	2,389	2,350
Milwaukee-----	140	142	6,043	5,887	Los Angeles-----	498	484	22,275	21,111
Peoria-----	37	16	1,425	1,437	Oakland-----	91	95	4,225	4,397
South Bend-----	32	25	1,220	1,122	Pasadena-----	35	28	1,749	1,616
Toledo-----	115	101	4,506	4,317	Portland, Oreg.-----	93	92	4,523	4,647
Youngstown-----	56	73	2,496	2,359	Sacramento-----	56	38	2,380	2,235
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					San Diego-----	80	83	3,587	3,500
Des Moines-----	55	37	2,488	2,452	San Francisco-----	171	231	8,947	8,891
Duluth-----	25	33	1,239	1,264	Seattle-----	130	138	6,200	5,815
Kansas City, Kans.-----	---	---	---	(1,617)	Spokane-----	50	50	2,235	2,158
Kansas City, Mo.-----	125	107	5,368	5,683	Tacoma-----	32	32	1,810	1,619
Minneapolis-----	130	128	5,747	5,551	Honolulu-----	(39)	(25)	(1,736)	(1,634)
Omaha-----	59	67	3,106	2,960					

Symbols.—parentheses ( ): data not included in table 3; 3 dashes --- : data not available.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

bugs in Texas for the past 15 years. Six species have been studied, and representatives of each have been found naturally infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Approximately one-third of the total bugs collected have been infected.

Rat rabies

Dr. L. E. Starr, Georgia Department of Public Health, has reported that rabies has been demonstrated in a rat. Late in October 1955, a rat attacked an 8-year-old boy while asleep in a bed. A deep puncture wound on the face was inflicted. The rat was killed by the boy's father who submitted it to a laboratory for examination. The brain of the rat was found to be Negri-positive and this finding was confirmed in the State health department laboratory. Specimens of the brain were inoculated into 4 mice, 3 of which were Negri-positive. Four more mice were inoculated from the first series of mice. One died of typical rabies and was Negri-positive. Specimens are now being studied at the Communicable Disease Center Virus Research Laboratory.

The boy who was bitten was given hyperimmune serum and an intensive course of antirabies vaccine. The child is normal to date.

Although rats have previously been reported in the literature as having rabies, this appears to be the first laboratory confirmed case in this species of animals.

The most recent case of animal rabies in the county where the boy lived was in January 1955, when a dog was shown to be microscopically negative but positive by mouse inoculation. A thorough investigation of the rat population is in progress in the county.

Tuberculosis

The Michigan Veterinary Reporting Service has reported that a herd of cattle in the eastern part of the State was tuberculin tested, and 4 of the 20 cattle in the herd were branded as suspect tuberculosis. The intradermal tests were said to have produced very spectacular reactions, with large areas of swelling. The slaughter report on 14 of the cattle stated that there were no visible lesions.

The owner of the herd was taken to a hospital about the time the tuberculin tests were performed. He is being treated for active genito-urinary tuberculosis, which was first noted in 1949. It is assumed that the herd owner contaminated the environment of the cattle through poor personal hygiene.

NOTE.—Cattle are reported to be relatively resistant to the development of generalized disease when exposed to the human type of tuberculous infection. However, they become sensitized very readily and become reactors when exposed to tubercle bacilli of human origin, or when injected experimentally with such organisms.

Gastro-enteritis of unknown etiology

The California Department of Public Health reports an outbreak of an illness of unknown etiology in an elementary school. On October 26, 120 children out of a total enrollment of 800 were absent. As far as could be determined, nearly all of these absentees were ill, primarily with nausea and vomiting with some slight fever and diarrhea. The menu in the school cafeteria was checked but there were no leftovers for bacteriological examination. A sanitary investigation of the kitchen revealed no irregularities. None of the personnel working in the kitchen were ill. In checking the history of the cases, it was found that some of the children had eaten in the cafeteria and others had not. It was concluded that food served in the school cafeteria was not responsible for the outbreak, and that it was an explosive mass outbreak of unknown etiology.

Trichiniasis

Dr. E. J. Witte, Pennsylvania Department of Health, reports a case of trichiniasis in a 44-year-old man. A muscle biopsy taken in a hospital showed chronic myositis compatible with chronic trichiniasis. The patient had eaten Italian cold cuts (salami, ham, and dried sausage) at the home of a friend. His wife and child also ate some of the food but did not become ill. The victim refused to disclose the friend's identity or address,

and samples of the food were not available for laboratory examination.

Gastro-enteritis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia Department of Health, reports that 12 persons became ill with cramps and abdominal pain, nausea, and diarrhea from 3 to 6 hours after attending a banquet. All recovered within a relatively short time without complications. The food served at the banquet included turkey, ham, dressing, peas, apple pie, and coffee. The food was prepared in several different homes with varying sanitary conditions and questionable refrigeration. The only food left for sampling was part of the turkey and ham which had been thrown together in a single container. Laboratory examination showed the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in these samples.

The Ohio Department of Health has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis affecting 8 persons who ate turkey dinners, including dressing and cranberry sauce. No food items were available for laboratory examination, and the vehicle of infection was not determined.

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